

Contact: Paul Mehney, TARDEC, 586-770-3438

U.S. ARMY AND GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION PARTNER TO REDUCE TACTICAL VEHICLE SKID ACCIDENTS

MILFORD, Mich. – Monday, March 27, 2006 –The U.S. Army has partnered with General Motors Corporation to help decrease the number of Soldier injuries due to accidents during skid driving conditions in combat zones.

The U.S. Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center's National Automotive Center, working with GM's Safe Driving School and the Army Safe Driver's Program from the Combat Readiness Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., has integrated skid platform technologies onto a standard HMMWV to help train Soldiers how to drive in skid conditions.

This program and subsequent recent skid training of Army engineers and staff by General Motors employees is part of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with General Motors Corporation for the development of new military and automotive technology applications.

According to George Loewen, TARDEC project engineer, "When outfitted on a military or commercial vehicle, this skid platform can simulate skid driving situations at 60 miles per hour, while the driver is only operating the vehicle at 15 miles per hour."

Although the Army is currently efficiently using the skid training devices on civilian vehicles in theater, this is the first such application for the military HMMWV.

"A skid training device could help us [Army] train Soldier prior to sending them into combat situation, aiding in reducing the number of rollovers that occur under a driving skid," said Mike Barkstall, Army Safe Drivers Program. "These skid situations are very similar to the conditions that are experienced in theater."

Currently the Army is working to educate driving instructors at Fort Leonard Wood on how to use this system so they can train Soldiers who are currently deployed overseas.

TARDEC is headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal, Warren, Mich. It is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology. TARDEC's mission is to research, develop, engineer, leverage and integrate advanced technology into ground systems and support equipment throughout the life cycle. Its technical staff leads research in ground vehicle survivability, mobility, intelligent systems, and maneuver support and sustainment.

#



6501 E. 11 Mile Rd.
AMSRD-TAR
Warren MI, 48397

PH: 586-574-6675
<http://tardec.army.mil>